



United States Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Specialty Crops Inspection Division

PATCH # 003

DOCUMENT: Sweet Peppers and Other Peppers Inspection Instructions, November 1991

REMARKS: The “**Decay**” section (pages 16 and 17) is obsolete, new guidance is as follows:

DECAY (C)

In the market, Bacterial Soft Rot, Gray Mold Rot (Botrytis Rot), and Alternaria Rot are the most common decays affecting peppers. Alternaria Rot is especially prevalent on stems following chilling injury.

Do not report the type of decay on the certificate. However, report the degree of advancement as early, moderate, or advanced stages using general terms.

NOTE: Do not combine (add together) stem decay and decay affecting walls and/or calyxes. When both stem decay and decay affecting walls and/or calyxes are present, report them on separate columns on the notesheet and on separate lines on the certificate.

DECAY AFFECTING STEMS

Score stem decay when the surface sloughs off or disintegrates upon touch. Do not confuse black or dark discolored stems for decay (see the [Black Stems](#) section).

Scoring Guide

Always serious damage: Score stem decay against the 5% serious damage tolerance in the U.S. Fancy and U.S. No. 1 grades. Score as serious damage against the restrictive 5% tolerance for “peppers affected by sunscald or affected by decay affecting stems only” in the U.S. No. 2 grade. Report as “Decay affecting stems” or “Stem decay.”

This PATCH represents official guidance. This PATCH is scheduled to be incorporated into the document listed above. After incorporation into the document listed above this PATCH will become obsolete.



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DECAY AFFECTING CALYXES AND/OR WALLS

Scoring Guide

Always serious damage: Score calyx and wall decay against the 2% tolerance for “decay affecting calyxes and/or walls” and reported as thus.

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